

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DOTE-00

EPA-04 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 AGR-10 /116 W

----- 072527

R 171710Z DEC 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5251

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS USNATO 6912

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO EPA FOR F. ALLEN HARRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, SENV

SUBJ: CCMS: SPRING 1976 PLENARY - CANADA PROPOSES TOPIC FOR
ROUNDTABLE

REF: USNATO 5733

1. CANADIAN NATO DEL HAS JUST ADVISED SECRETARIAT AND OTHER ALLIED
DELS THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WELCOME TOPIC SUGGESTED BY UK
REP (REF) AT FALL PLENARY: "HOW TO OBTAIN A REALISTIC EVALUATION
OF THE DANGERS OF POLLUTION AND TO DEFINE ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA
AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF RISK".

CANADA ALSO PROPOSES AN ADDITIONAL THEME, WHICH CANADIAN DEL
NOTES WAS TOUCHED ON AT LAST CCMS PLENARY BY CANADIAN REP AS
POSSIBILITY FOR SPRING ROUNDTABLE. THIS TOPIC IS DESCRIBED
AS THE LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR PURPOSES OF URBANIZATION
AND INDUSTRIALIZATION. CANADIAN DEL OFFERS AS AMPLIFICATION
OF THIS THEME THE CANADIAN REP'S VERBATIM STATEMENT ON SUBJECT
AT LAST PLENARY:

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BEGIN TEXT

LAND USE IN RESPECT TO URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.
EVERY NATO COUNTRY HAS FACED THE PROBLEM OF URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT ENCROACHING ON ITS PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND. THE PROBLEM IS OF CRISIS PROPORTIONS IN CANADA AND I BELIEVE IT MERITS VERY SERIOUS ATTENTION NOT ONLY IN CCMS COUNTRIES BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE KNOW THAT WE ARE CRIPPLING OUR FUTURE LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY AND FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCE BASE BECAUSE OF INCREMENTAL PRESSURES AND SHORT-TERM VALUE CHANGES THAT, IN ANY SPECIFIC DECISION, ARE NEARLY IRRESISTIBLE. VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN MOST COUNTRIES, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO GRAPPLE WITH THIS PROBLEM. I DO NOT SUGGEST, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT CCMS WOULD FIND A MAJOR "SOLUTION" WHERE ALL THOSE OTHERS HAVE NOT; BUT I PROPOSE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE IF THIS COMMITTEE COULD UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM TO COLLECT AVAILABLE DATA AND REDUCE IT TO A COMMON OR COMPARABLE BASIS ON THE LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND, THE RELATIVE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM VALUES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN LAND AND NET PRODUCTIVITY, THE TAX REVENUES, OVER SAY THE PAST THREE DECADES, AND TO RELATE THESE TO FACTORS SUCH AS POPULATION CHANGES AND DISTRIBUTION, AIR AND WATER POLLUTION AND DOMESTIC GAINS. FROM SUCH A BASE, INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS WOULD DEVELOP THEIR OWN POLICIES IN A MORE CONSISTENT AND REALISTIC MANNER." END TEXT

2. MISSION COMMENT:

IF U.S. HAS ANY IDEAS OF ITS OWN AS TO THE DESIRABILITY OF SOME OTHER TOPIC IN ADDITION TO OR INSTEAD OF THE FOREGOING CANADIAN SUGGESTION AND PREVIOUS ONE BY UK, IT WOULD BE WELL TO GET IT INTO CIRCULATION HERE (AS WELL AS IN OTTAWA) BEFORE MUCH LONGER. OF COURSE ANY U.S. COMMENT ON TWO SUGGESTIONS ALREADY IN PLAY WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. END COMMENT.BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO06912
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751290/abbrznmi.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 5733
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCMS: SPRING 1976 PLENARY - CANADA PROPOSES TOPIC FOR ROUNDTABLE
TAGS: CCMS, SENV
To: STATE INFO OTTAWA
LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006